

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman, Montana
Friday, July 20, 2007

In attendance were Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members Jim Court, Tom Foor, Shirley Groff, Bill Holt, George Horse Capture, Kent Kleinkopf, Katherine Lee, Jack Lepley, Jim Murry, Tom Nygard, Lee Rostad, Crystal Shors, and Jim Utterback. Also in attendance were MHS Director Richard Sims, MHS State Historic Preservation Officer Mark Baumler, MHS Centralized Services Manager Denise King, MHS Publications Program Manager Molly Holz, MHS Research Center Program Manager Molly Kruckenberg, MHS Interim Museum Program Manager Kirby Lambert, MHS Public Information Officer Tom Cook, MHS Administrative Officer Gena Ashmore, and Montana History Foundation Executive Director Amy Sullivan. Also addressing the Board were Keith Rupert and Bob Franzen with CTA Architects, and Joe Triem of the Department of Administration Architecture and Engineering Division.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Jim Murry called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Everyone present introduced themselves. Trustee George Horse Capture blessed the meeting.

Jim Murry passed around complimentary entrance tickets to the Museum of the Rockies. He announced that Katherine Lee, Steve Lozar and Kent Kleinkopf were all reappointed to the Board. He thanked Tom Nygard for the reception at Nygard Gallery the night before the meeting.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Shirley Groff moved to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2007 meeting, Bill Holt seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Denise King explained the fiscal year-end financial reports and the 2008 and 2009 budget. The Research Center received \$80,000 from the legislature to digitize the legislative proceedings. We also received \$100,000 per year from the legislature with the stipulation that we allocate the money to SHPO, the Archives, exhibits, membership, the Moss Mansion and the Original Governor's Mansion. SHPO will regrant the money to local communities for barn preservation and for assisting the Montana Preservation Alliance. The Research Center will continue with its digitization process. The Museum will get new software to be used in exhibit design. Membership will get new software and produce a printed newsletter. The Moss Mansion and the Original Governor's Mansion will receive \$7,500 each.

Betty Anne Bergstrom and Denise conducted a financial review of the Moss Mansion in Billings. Denise and Betty Anne are working with the Moss Mansion on internal control issues to bring the mansion into compliance with governmental accounting standards. The mansion needs help with conservation. They have no climate control, and they have over 50 Persian rugs that are worn. Our staff will be working with the Moss Mansion staff this fall to train them in conservation and care of their artifacts. The mansion staff are also doing a room-by-room analysis of all of the artifacts to submit to our insurance company. Denise and Betty Anne will do the same type of review with the Original Governor's Mansion this fall.

Denise and Jim Murry met with the Governor's Office to discuss the legislative session. The Governor's Office is already talking about what we want to do in the 2009 legislative session. Richard Sims and Denise have developed a top-ten list which includes money for the new facility, restoring the general fund that was lost in previous sessions, FTE to catalog collections, digitization for the Research Center, enhancing funds for Publications, the 40% match for SHPO, a larger share of the accommodations tax, and conservation needs at the Moss Mansion and the Original Governor's Mansion.

MONTANA HISTORY FOUNDATION REPORT

Amy Sullivan reported that when she was hired as the Executive Direction of the Foundation she was tasked with raising funds for three things: the music machines at Virginia City, the history textbook, and the Scriver Center loan debt. MHF has raised \$150,000 for the music machines and is getting national attention for that fundraising effort. The textbook received \$160,000, of which \$140,000 is for immediate publication and \$20,000 is for revisions. The Scriver loan in March was \$650,800, and is now down to \$300,000. The goal is to pay off the Scriver Center in the next two months, which will free up money for the Foundation's operating expenses.

One of the Foundation's Board members, Allan Hamilton, died in a plane crash in May. He was a very good Board member who was highly involved in the History Center project. A matching grant of \$200,000 to pay off the Scriver Center has been set up as a memorial to Allan Hamilton.

Money raised from the Dolack prints continue to go into the Pioneer Fund for Virginia and Nevada Cities. MHF is looking forward to an opportunity with Montana PBS in September to sell the remaining Dolack prints as possible premiums for Montana PBS memberships.

The Foundation's database is up and running. (The internet component will be operational later this year.) MHF is instituting Moves Management, which involves identifying donors who give at certain levels and how often, so that the Foundation can work with those donors to see who is capable of moving up to the next level. MHF has a grant database now. A donation was given to MHF about a year ago where someone had gone through every private foundation in the United States to find out which ones fund historical or educational projects. MHF was able to create its own database and will send letters of inquiry to find out what these foundations will fund and to look for opportunities for the Society, the Heritage Commission and the Foundation.

The Foundation is redoing its website. They will soon have the ability to accept internet donations through the database as well as allowing for renewal of memberships online for Virginia and Nevada Cities.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has given the Montana Preservation Alliance and the History Foundation money to do a business plan to determine how best they can help history in Montana.

Amy thanked the people who placed an ad for the "Twenty Under Forty" in Helena. Amy was selected as one of the people honored.

ARCHITECT'S REPORT

Keith Rupert from CTA Architects reviewed the architect process. An extensive series of interviews was held with Society staff, and the architects looked at existing facilities and sites. At the same time, agency heads were interviewed across the Helena campus as part of the Capitol Complex planning process. The Capitol Complex and the Heritage Center planning are integrally entwined. The Heritage Center will have a large impact on fulfilling the Capitol Complex plan.

The architects will be back in Helena on July 31 to go over the design and planning of the Heritage Center. Site selection will be narrowed down to a primary and secondary site by the middle of August. At the end of August the architects will be back in Helena and will have a lot of information to share. All of the work will be completed by the end of October.

Bob Franzen explained the Capitol Complex master planning which included developing goals, vision statements, and guiding principles. A strong need that came up with almost every agency interviewed was for the Capitol Campus to have an information center, an improved food service, and a large conference and training center. There is an opportunity for the Heritage Center to serve as the Capitol Complex entrance.

Five sites were evaluated for the Heritage Center. Keith Rupert went over the pros and cons of the five sites. The architects will be presenting in Phase I of the project a building with about 42,000 square feet of space, which contains about 17,000 square feet of public spaces including a lobby, display and gallery space, a conference center, a large museum store, and support space. A building this size will cost approximately \$18.5 million plus and will take about three years to accomplish. This does not include any structured parking.

The floor was opened for discussion and questions. Several Board members expressed the importance of parking for the Heritage Center and the need for future expansion.

EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORT

Richard Sims announced that the Society now has an Education Program. This program has equal status with the other major divisions of the organization. Richard is serving as acting Program Manager. An Education Program Manager will be recruited nationally. This change will make Education more efficient internally, of more service Society-wide internally, and will start looking at a larger vision to promote heritage education services externally.

MUSEUM PROGRAM REPORT

Western Rendezvous of Art Update

The Western Rendezvous of Art will be held in Helena August 16 – 20. Brochures are in the Board packets. Kirby invited the Board to attend the Rendezvous.

Deaccession Request – Beulah Clothier

This deaccession request is for a framed assemblage of Blackfeet artifacts that was given to the Society in 2006. At that time, the Board agreed to loan the artifacts to Central School in Kalispell before it was to be delivered to Helena. Upon receiving the collection, the Museum planned to remove the items from the frame in which they are currently mounted. This would be done due to the long-term preservation of the artifacts and the sensitive nature of some of the artifacts. Recently, however, it was made known that the donor expected that the artifacts would be kept together in the frame and that they would always be on exhibit. Central School has agreed to the donor's terms. Since we cannot meet the donor's expectations, the museum staff asks that the Board deaccession the artifacts and give them to Central School. **Tom Nygard moved to approve the deaccession, Lee Rostad seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

Deaccession Request – Burial Preservation Board

This request is to deaccession a white woman's scalp to the Burial Preservation Board. This should have been done in 1994 when we were preparing for NAGPRA. **Kent Kleinkopf moved to approve the deaccession, Crystal Shors seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

Loan Request – Montana Museum of Art and Culture, University of Montana

This loan request to the Museum of Art and Culture is fairly standard except for the value of the requested pieces. The museum staff supports the loan, but in lieu of charging a loan fee, it is recommended that there be a requirement that a second security person be hired so that there will be security in each gallery while the exhibit is open. The Poindexter collection was last appraised in 1992, and MHS has adjusted the value considerably since then. Tom Nygard felt the appraisal should be redone. **Tom Nygard moved to approve the loan with the conditions**

set forth by the museum staff, Lee Rostad seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed. Kirby Lambert stated that except for the Russells that are on display, the Poindexter collection is our most used collection. It has been exhibited widely around the state, as well as around the country.

Loan Request – Exploration Works, Helena,

This request is presented with the contingency that when the exhibit space is completed, the museum staff will approve the security and environmental conditions. **Jim Utterback moved to approve the loan with the conditions set forth by the museum staff, Tom Nygard seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

Loan Discussion – Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa & Denver Art Museum

Last July the Board was made aware of a large Russell request that will be coming. An official request will be made to the Board in October.

RESEARCH CENTER PROGRAM REPORT

Deaccession Request

Molly Kruckenberg presented the quarterly Library deaccession request. The White Sulphur Springs Library requested four of the items be sent to them rather than sold, if the deaccession was approved. Molly explained the deaccession and sale process to the Board. **Lee Rostad moved to approve the deaccession, Bill Holt seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

David Thompson Conference Wrap-Up

The “Beyond Borders and Boundaries” conference was held in mid-June at the Historical Society with over 100 attendees. There was great staff and volunteer participation for the conference. It was a good event with a good turn-out and lots of good evaluations. The conference created good relationships and networking with colleagues in Canada.

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM REPORT

Molly Holz reported that the next issue of the magazine has been mailed. Pubs is learning how to do a text exhibit in the magazine, which is useful in that it shows the Neither Empty Nor Unknown exhibit. An offprint of 5,000 copies was done that the museum will distribute to the public. There is also an article on Jackson Hole, and we got some new distribution in Jackson as a result.

The Place Names book is well underway. It will have a very elaborate map in it. Molly will show copies at the next meeting.

The Guide to Historic Bozeman is almost complete. This is the seventh of the Montana Mainstreet series. It will sell for \$12.95. Bozeman has one of the highest concentrations of National Register properties of any community in the country.

Publications won an award of merit from the American Association of State and Local History for Jon Axline's article *Conveniences Sorely Needed*. Kent Kleinkopf suggested that the Society needs an awards case to display all of the Publications awards. Kirby Lambert added that the Montana Mosaic DVD also won an award of merit from the American Association of State and Local History.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE PROGRAM REPORT

Mark Baumler reported that SHPO received a Preserve America grant of \$100,000 for heritage preservation training. Mark passed out a press release with a photo of Kate Hampton receiving the grant award from First Lady Laura Bush and Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne. This is the second grant SHPO has received from this program, and we already have a third application in. We are one of six SHPOs in the country that was awarded a Preserve America grant.

DIRECTOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT & ACTION ITEMS

Legislative Final Report

SB 286 passed. This loosened up the restrictions on naming opportunities on the Capitol Campus. Living people can have their names on the Heritage Center building.

SB 284 did not pass. This bill would have reallocated significant accommodations tax money to several heritage organizations and given more money to Travel Montana. The Governor and Budget Director said from the beginning that they would not support this bill. There was an attempt to override the veto, which failed. Had that bill passed, we would have seen approximately \$300,000 per year for historic preservation and general operations.

We gained an extra \$100,000 per year in our budget and one staff employee in the curatorial area.

The 2009 session planning is starting now. We will work with legislators on both sides of the aisle to support our soon-to-be-defined agenda when a site is selected for the new Heritage Center.

Kent Kleinkopf commented that in Richard's travels around the state, it is important for Board members to make contact with people in their areas, not just current legislators, to assist Richard in what he is doing.

Indian Education For All

This was a grant program that distributed \$8,500 to ten museums around the state. Richard is drafting the final report for the Office of Public Instruction. This program was such a success that the Indian Education Office wants to do another one very soon. Being a partner in Indian education and being seen as distributing money to small museums around the state would be very good for the Society. Partnerships and collaborations have emerged between museums as a result of this project.

Business Membership Proposal

Crystal Shors and Jim Utterback met with the membership staff and Kris Ellis, the marketing consultant earlier in the month. A focus group of businesses in the Helena area will be invited to the Society in early August to learn what will make membership in the Society more attractive to business people. We want to build all aspects of our membership program, but we are focusing on business memberships at this time. The least expensive business category would start at \$250 and graduate up to \$10,000. We have proposed benefits for the various categories, and we want to find out if these are acceptable benefits and if they would cause business owners to want to join the Society. We will eventually ask Board members to promote the business membership program to businesses in their areas.

Katherine Lee suggested having a small traveling exhibit to offer to business members to display in their lobby – something that only business members could get.

Smithsonian Affiliation

Richard Sims announced that the Montana Historical Society has been accepted as an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute. This has real value at the curatorial and work level, but it also has very good marketing value in the public arena. We can offer Smithsonian memberships for a small fee to members of the Historical Society. The professional essence of the affiliation is that curatorial work is made easier, loans are made easier, research trips back east are made easier, workshops and programs are available to us, and Smithsonian events could be hosted in our part of the country.

Other

Richard has completed one year and one week as Director of the Society. He has traveled 5,000 miles around Montana, had formal meetings in over 20 towns, and talked to over 400 non-Helenans.

Jim Court asked for an update on the History Conference. Kirby Lambert said the History Conference will be held at the Great Northern in Helena on October 18-20. This year we returned to the idea of having a call for proposals, and we received an overwhelming response. Since we put out the call for anything in Montana history, we received a large variety of topics.

Ellen Baumler will be doing a tour of historic cemeteries called Grave Expectations, and a local historian will give a historical tour of Trident.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18, 1:30 – 4:30. It was suggested that committee meetings be held in the morning before the Board meeting. George Horse Capture's 70th birthday is October 20.

Tom Nygard said the Charlie Russell Catalog Raisonne' will be released on October 20 and is a major effort in Great Falls. The timing with the History Conference is coincidental. The Russell Museum and the University of Oklahoma are making a monstrous effort to make a big deal out of this event. The Board discussed if there is a way to make the two events occur beneficially to both parties. This is the biggest event to happen in the world of Charlie Russell since his death. Jim Murry asked Tom to spend some time with Richard Sims and staff to talk about coordinating the two events so that we all get a symbiotic benefit out of it.

Richard Sims attended the Remington/Russell exhibit opening at the National Wildlife Museum in Jackson, Wyoming. The Wildlife Museum borrowed our Toll Collectors painting for this exhibit. We met some important people in the art world that will be beneficial when we start campaigning.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jim talked about the Board reappointments earlier in the meeting. He congratulated the reappointed members again.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards Committee

Shirley Groff presented the top three nominees for the Educator's Award. **Shirley Groff moved that Glenn Thomas Garrison of Thompson Falls receive the Educator's Award, Katherine Lee seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

Shirley presented the top three nominees for the Trustees' Award. She said the recommendation was a toss-up between Harry William Fritz and Dr. Les Davis because both of these candidates were very well qualified. **Shirley Groff moved that Dr. Les Davis receive the Trustees' Award because of his work with Paleo-Indian cultures that reaches far beyond the state of Montana, and Katherine Lee seconded.** Richard commented that Harry Fritz just retired. Giving two awards was discussed, and Shirley stressed the importance of giving the award to only one person. The Board wanted to vote on who would receive the award. **Shirley Groff**

withdrew her motion, Katherine Lee withdrew her second, Lee Rostad moved to vote for each nominee for the award, and Kent seconded the motion. Richard asked for discussion on the candidates. Tom Foor knows both nominees and gave a brief explanation of the nominees. **Dr. Davis received four votes, and Harry Fritz received seven votes.**

Marketing/Membership Committee

Crystal Shors reported on the Marketing/Membership committee. Branding is at the top of the list of priorities. Crystal recommended that everyone read the marketing plan that was prepared by Kris Ellis. The Montana Post will be recreated with a new name and will be mailed to the membership. Tom Cook explained the format of the new and improved newsletter.

Banners are being installed on the exterior of the Society building in the next few weeks to make the building more visible. The store has a new manager, Sherrie Jonckheere, and the store will be expanded into the Reflections Gallery.

The Greater Montana Foundation gives almost exclusively to media productions and documentaries. The Society asked for \$30,000 for video equipment to produce our own PSAs, television commercials, documentaries, and gallery and orientation videos.

Executive Committee

Jim Murry said the Executive Committee talked about the significant personnel changes at the Society. Next month there will be a summit meeting to discuss the relationship between the Society and the Montana History Foundation. Tom Foor has been charged with the responsibility of developing an evaluation process for the Director.

There will be a Pre-Campaign Steering Committee developed to help us to reach out across the country to solicit contributions for the new facility. Board members who are interested in serving on that committee should let Richard know. We need members who are willing to do the hard work that is ahead of us to raise the money. This committee will oversee the early work such as the feasibility study conducted by a consultant who interviews 75 – 100 known philanthropists around the state who might be interested in our project to see what the minimum or maximum gifts are that they might give. Pre-campaign readiness might also include auditing the Board to find out how ready each individual is to engage in a capital campaign, auditing the staff, and auditing our relationship with others, such as the Montana History Foundation and legislators. The steering committee will include board members and stakeholders of the campaign, and it will evolve to become the campaign cabinet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

History Textbook

Lee Rostad said she would like to see any money left over from the textbook go back into the Bair Trust. Amy Sullivan explained that donations above and beyond the current budget are designated for future revisions to the textbook. If the Society has extra money from the textbook, it can replenish the Bair Trust.

Moss Mansion Country Fair

Lee Rostad reported that she and Sharon had a booth at the Moss Mansion Country Fair. Some people in Montana do not even know there is a Montana Historical Society. They gave away a lot of magazines. Some who picked up the magazine said they would send it to their relatives serving in Iraq. Lee has asked Vanessa Verrill and Tammy Ryan to check into sending old issues of the magazine to Montanans in Iraq from the Society.

ADJOURN

Jim Utterback moved to adjourn the meeting, Shirley Groff seconded, all voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.